

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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ACDA-05 IO-11 OMB-01 OPIC-03 SAM-01 XMB-02 SAJ-01

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R 101226Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6293

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1530

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: RC DEFERS ACTION ON AZOREAN AUTONOMY STATUTE

REF: LISBON 1444 (DTG 051750Z MAR 76)

SUMMARY: REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL ANNOUNCED DECISION MAR 9
TO NAME COMMISSION TO MAKE "EXHAUSTIVE STUDY" OF AZOREAN
AUTONOMY STATUTE. ACTION MAKES DECISION BY RC ON STATUTE
UNLIKELY PRIOR TO APPROVAL OF CONSTITUTION BY CONSTITUTENT
ASSEMBLY. END SUMMARY.

1. RC MEETS: REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL ON MAR 9 RELEASED
CHARACTERISTICALLY VAGUE COMMUNIQUE ON RESULTS OF PREVIOUS
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DAY'S MEETING. HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED:

-- AZORES: RC CONSIDERED AZOREAN STATUTE OF AUTONOMY AND DECIDED TO NAME COMMISSION TO MAKE "EXHAUSTIVE STUDY" OF DOCUMENT TO ENABLE COUNCIL TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION.

-- ARMED FORCES UNITY: RC DISCUSSED CURRENT POLITICAL-MILITARY SITUATION, WITH VIEW TOWARD ASSURING "COHESION AND UNITY" OF ARMED FORCES -- TASK WHICH WAS RECOGNIZED AS BEING OF PRIORITY IMPORTANCE.

-- MRPP: RC REVOKED ITS PREVIOUS RESOLUTION BARRING MAOIST MRPP FROM COMPETING IN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS.

2. IN RESPONSE TO SUBSEQUENT PRESS INQUIRIES, RC SPOKESMAN CPT SOUSA E CASTRO DECLINED TO ELABORATE ON RC DISCUSSION OF ARMED FORCES UNITY. HE ADDED THAT QUESTION OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED DURING MEETING.

3. EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS WITH ANGOLA: FOREIGN MINISTRY ANNOUNCED MAR 9 THAT ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT HAD AGREED PREVIOUS DAY TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL.

4. "PRAVDA" ATTACKS SOCIALIST MEETING" LOCAL PRESS GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE MAR 9 TO "PRAVDA" ATTACKS ON PLANNED MEETING OF EUROPEAN SOCIALIST LEADERS IN OPORTO MARCH 14 IN SUPPORT OF PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST PARTY. "PRAVDA" LABELLED MEETING "INTERFERENCE IN PORTUGUESE INTERNAL AFFAIRS."

4. COMMENT: THE RC'S NON-DECISION ON THE AUTONOMY STATUTE MAKES RC APPROVAL UNLIKELY PRIOR TO ACTION ON CONSTITUTION BY THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. RC RESPONSE IS CONSISTENT WITH EARLIER COMMENTS TO EMBOFF BY SOUSA E CASTRO (REFTEL). COUNCIL IS ATTEMPTING TO PRESENT PUBLIC IMAGE OF UNITY IN EFFORT TO DIFFUSE REPORTS OF DISSENSION WITHIN ITS RANKS. DIFFERENCES HOWEVER REMAIN AMONG MEMBERS, AND THESE DIFFERENCES CAN BE EXPECTED AGAIN TO COME TO THE SURFACE IN THE FACE OF PRESSURES WHICH THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN IS BOUND TO GENERATE.

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